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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,590	08/05/2003	Kenichi Hanamata	3864/0N107US0	1377
7278	7590	03/16/2005	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257			MANCHO, RONNIE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/635,590

Applicant(s)

HANAMATA, KENICHI

Examiner

Ronnie Mancho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, an ignition switch cannot be differentiated from starter switch, and a key interlock switch.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii et al (5553488).

Regarding claim 1, Ishii et al (figs. 2&3; cols. 5&6) disclose a control unit 51 for a vehicle having a self-diagnosis function for self-diagnosing a verification of a reception of a signal concerning a switch (col. 5, lines 23-44) based on various vehicle information data, comprising:

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a function checker 27 connected with said control unit 51 for outputting a predetermined control signal into said control unit 51 (col. 5, lines 56 to col. 6) when said control unit receives a predetermined signal from the various vehicle information data, wherein said predetermined control signal causes said control unit 51 to activate said self-diagnosis function to establish a self-diagnosis mode (col. 6, lines 21-67).

Regarding claim 2, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 1, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as the vehicle information data to the function checker.

Regarding claim 3, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 1, wherein the function checker displays a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode based on the received vehicle information data.

Regarding claim 4, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 2, wherein the function checker displays a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode based on the received vehicle information data.

Regarding claim 5, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 1, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

Regarding claim 6, Ishii et al disclose the control unit according to claim 2, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

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Regarding claim 7, Ishii et al (figs. 2&3; cols. 5&6) disclose a control system of vehicle for self-diagnosing a verification of a reception of signals from a plurality of switches, comprising:

- a control unit 51 provided with a self-diagnosis function (fig. 3; col. 6, lines 20-67) for verifying the reception of the signals from said switches;

- a function checker 27 connected with said control unit;

- a first communication line (fig. 3) connecting said control unit with a first switch to transmit a first signal issued from the first switch to said control unit;

- a second communication line (fig. 3) connecting said control unit with a second switch to transmit a second signal issued from the second switch to said control unit;

- a third communication line (fig. 3) for said function checker to catch the first signal from said first communication line; and

- a fourth communication line (fig. 3) for transmitting a pseudo signal of the second signal from said function checker to said control unit through said second communication line when said function checker receives the first signal,

wherein said control unit 51 activates the self-diagnosis function when receiving the pseudo signal of the second signal so that the reception of signals from the plurality of switches can be verified (cols. 5&6).

Regarding claim 8, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said control unit outputs a diagnosed result of the self-diagnosis mode as an actuating control signal for controlling at least either one of a room lamp or an indicator lamp.

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Regarding claim 9, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said plurality of switches are an ignition switch, starter switch and a key interlock switch, and said first switch is the ignition switch.

Regarding claim 10, Ishii et al disclose the control system according to claim 7, wherein said second switch is a door switch, which needs no verification of a reception of a signal thereof.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following: US005485596A , US005410469A , US005181389A , and 5050080 all disclose diagnosing a vehicle.

### ***Communication***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronnie Mancho whose telephone number is 703-305-6318. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.

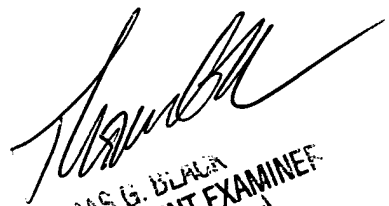
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Black can be reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronnie Mancho  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3663

March 5, 2005



THOMAS G. BLACK  
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